

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5287
ANSWERED ON:29.04.2002
VIRAL DISEASE IN PLANTS
HARIBHAU MAHALE

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have set up any agency to tackle viral diseases in plants and ensuring quality control for the benefit of farming;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, location-wise;
- (c) the estimated demand of agriculture inputs for horticulture and floriculture, year- wise; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government for commercialisation of plant tissue culture?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. The Department of Biotechnology has set up a national facility for virus diagnosis and quality control of Tissue Culture raised planting material as a multi-institutional network project to ensure availability of virus free and high quality tested tissue culture plants for the benefit of farming community. The main centre is located at Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), New Delhi with five satellite centres at Institute of Himalayan Bioresources Technology (IHBT), Palampur; Indian Institute of Horticultural Research (IIHR), Bangalore; National Chemical Laboratory (NCL), Pune; Tata Energy Research Institute (TERI), New Delhi and Southern Petro & Industrial Chemicals (SPIC) Science Foundation, Chennai.

(c): Tissue culture is a developing technology in the field of agriculture, horticulture and floriculture. The estimated demand is likely to increase.

(d): The Department of Biotechnology is making concerted efforts for promoting commercialization of plant tissue culture. Two Micropropagation Technology Parks have been established which act as an interface between the academia and industry. The Micropropagation Technology Parks also serve as an effective platform for transfer of proven technologies to the industry and provide consultancy for setting up of units on turn key basis. Training is an important component of the activity. The National Facility for Virus Diagnosis and Quality Control also aims at benefiting the industry through certification of the planting material which is produced.